

FROM THE EDITOR

There is so much happening at Darebin U3A that we have decided to issue this Autumn 'mini-Flyer' to keep members up-to-date with the latest news, events and course information.

Many thanks to Teresa Pitt for her invaluable help and skills in producing this newsletter at such short notice over the Easter break.

We are calling for contributions for our mid-year newsletter, especially reports from the classroom and creative writing. We have already received a delightful article by Robyn Buckley on the Needlecraft group's work in making 'joey pouches' for the bush creatures rescued from the bushfires. Regretfully we do not have enough space to publish this here, but look out for it in the next newsletter or check it out on our website in May.

June Newsletter deadline: Friday 15th May.

Articles of 250 words or less preferred. Please send all contributions to the Editor, Jill Craig, at U3A Darebin, or drop them into the office.

FROM THE COMMITTEE

We are delighted to announce that Audrey Grace has agreed to take on the mantle of **President**, leaving the position of **Vice-President** vacant. Audrey has been working extremely hard in handling numerous tasks—for example, organising the luncheon with Spectrum and buying much needed equipment for the office and for tutors.

Is there any member out there who would be willing to volunteer for the position of **Vice-President** to assist Audrey and lighten her workload?? We also need someone willing to take on the role of **Publicity Officer**. If you would like to help, please leave a message for Audrey at the Office (96 102 102).

CLASS ENROLMENTS

Many of our classes are now full to overflowing. Class sizes are decided by the tutor or restrained by physical space at the venue.

When we enrol as members of U3A, we then apply for the classes that interest us. We are told if there is room in that class or if we are to be placed on a waiting list.

This year we have had the unusual occurrence of members just turning up to a class when they have not enrolled, so we feel that we have to remind you of our protocol.

If you wish to attend another class, you should first phone the office so that we can check with the tutor if there is a vacancy. You will then be notified if you may join the class or be placed on a waiting list.

As a matter of courtesy to the tutor and in fairness to others, we ask all members to respect these procedures.

Bargain Office Equipment

We are currently refurbishing the office and have some items for sale, including:

- One large solid wood office desk with three drawers, 75 x 150 cm
- One multi-function copier, Brother MFC 9180. Includes fax, printer, photocopier and scanner.

Please phone Audrey at the office for further information or to make an offer.

New Office Hours

Thanks to a wonderful band of volunteers and the hard work of Pat Oswald, our Office Co-ordinator, you can now talk to a real person at the office every week day. See Contact Information.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: dbin@alphalink.com.au

Post: PO Box 44, FAIRFIELD VIC 3078

Phone: 96 102 102

Or go to the website at

<http://users.alphalink.com.au/~dbin/home.html>

Visit the office at

Fairfield Railway Station

26 Railway Place, Fairfield 3078

New Office Hours during school terms

Monday	9.00 am – 3.00 pm
Tuesday	10.30 am – 12 noon
Wednesday	10.30 am – 12 noon 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm
Thursday	1.00 pm – 3.00 pm
Friday	1.00 pm – 3.00 pm

COURSE INFORMATION

We are delighted to announce two new classes:

Tai Chi in the North

Next term, Barry Watson, our very popular and professional Tai Chi instructor, will be conducting another class at Merrilands Community Centre, corner of Sturdee and Asquith Sts., Reservoir – Melway 18 H1.

Classes will be held in the main hall on Tuesday mornings from 10-11 am. Classes commence 21st April and new members may enrol on that day.

Free-thought, Religion and the Afterlife

This is a new 8-week course offered by Paul Murchison in Second Semester on Tuesday mornings from 11-12noon at Fairfield Station. Paul has provided the following course description:

This course deals very briefly with the philosophic ways of looking at things and then ponders the question of the afterlife, particularly in terms of Eastern thought. Both Buddhism and Hinduism provide profound analysis of this issue, though arguably the conclusions reached provide ongoing problems.

Are such issues as Karma and Reincarnation cop-outs, and if so does Christianity offer a viable alternative?

Paul Murchison describes himself as a free thinker and is the author of *Who is This God?*

If you wish to enrol in this class please phone the office and leave a message for Carmel.

Volunteer Computer Tutor Urgently Needed

Since both our computer classes have waiting lists, we have been trying hard to find a new tutor to teach basic computer skills to many eager members. If you, or someone you know, would be willing to conduct such a class, please contact Audrey via the office.

Computer Class Changes

Sadly, Mary Levens has resigned from teaching **Computer 2**. As a result, Russell Lennox is now teaching his new advanced course as **Computer 2—Developing Computer Skills** in Mary's timeslot on Thursday mornings at Span instead of at Jika.

We apologise for any confusion and disappointment these changes have caused.

Darebin U3A wishes to thank Mary Levens for the interest she has shown towards her many grateful students and her thorough teaching of computer skills. We also thank Mary for her continuing support and professionalism in updating our website every month.

Learning English with Fun and Laughter

Rita Kellar would like another assistant to help in her ESL class at Merrilands on Mondays 1-3pm. A sense of humour and fun is all that is needed.

Please leave a message for Rita at the office if you would like to help.

Classical Italian Literature

The tutor, Jone Gaillard, will be away for some weeks in May and June. The last class before the break will be on 1st May, and classes will resume on 19 June.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Enthusiastic Gardeners Wanted

Darebin U3A is developing a social inclusion project, involving residents in public housing estates, which is funded by Darebin Council. We have been asked to assist residents in developing and maintaining a community garden at the Agg Street estate in Thornbury.

Annie Hingston has horticultural expertise and works with these residents on Monday and Thursday mornings.

Do we have any members with green fingers who would like to take part in this project, either once a fortnight or monthly? Please contact Audrey for further details.

'What life was like when you were 13'

Span is seeking eleven volunteers to be interviewed by Year 7 students from Thornbury Secondary College. The students interview in pairs. They will ask you about your early life, family, career, education and lifestyle. Any photos you can bring would be much appreciated.

People who volunteered last year really enjoyed the chance to connect with local young people, and were impressed at how well prepared they were. It involves two meetings at Span of about 45 minutes each.

1. Monday 18 May, 12.15 – 1 pm OR
Wednesday 20 May, 10.45 – 11.30
2. Week of 23 June, date and time to be confirmed, for the students present their write-ups of the interviews to all the interviewees. If you are interested, please phone Jo at Span on 9480 1364

OUT AND ABOUT

Celebrating Cultural Diversity

*We are one but we are many
And from all the lands on earth we come
We share a dream and sing with one voice:
I am, you are, we are Australian.*

(Lyrics © Bruce Woodley and Dobe Newton 1987.)

The spirit of this song was reflected at our first, highly successful joint venture with Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre.

Darebin U3A provided a delicious multicultural lunch, and there was a wonderful atmosphere of sharing with members from the Northern Federation of Ethnic Seniors Groups.

Nadereh Edwards, Co-ordinator of NFESG, was a delightful and extremely helpful co-host of the event.

We all had a very enjoyable and interesting time meeting with older people from many different ethnic groups. There was much laughter and lively conversation around the tables, with people telling stories of their home country.

We were treated to performances from the Vietnamese choir and a delightful Vietnamese dancer. In return, our **Singing for Pleasure** group gave a very polished performance which was received with much applause.

After lunch, everyone had the opportunity to admire the work of other groups on display. Our **Needlecraft** group provided a wonderful display of completed and current work. Christine Fittipaldi, tutor of the **Improving Your English** class spoke about their work and Claudia and Nerina read their delightful pieces about what U3A means to them.

The combined singing of 'I am, you are, we are Australian', led by Jim Logan, was a moving conclusion to a very happy occasion.

Special thanks to Pam Fergie-Jackson and Jes Shaw for preparing the food and setting up the tables so efficiently; to Jill Craig for fetching the food for our Vietnamese guests and looking after them so well; and to Dawn Vivio for helping to move furniture and prepare the room the day before. Audrey Grace did a superb job in organising the catering and managing the very complicated logistics. Thanks to all the members and tutors for their enthusiastic participation and contributions.

Our Privacy Policy

U3A Darebin is a community based provider of classes for older people and is run by volunteers.

We collect names and addresses to enable us to mail out newsletters and other information about classes, and we list phone numbers to contact you directly if required. This mailing and phone list is not made available to anyone outside the organization.

We also ask you for personal details to provide statistical data to government funding agencies. This is a requirement for receiving government grants. The information is used for future planning. This information is compiled into statistical reports that do not identify individuals.

If you choose to withhold these personal details there will be gaps in the data that will reduce the accuracy of the statistics, and this will not help our cause.

We do not disclose any of this information to any other parties, and would never do so without your consent.

If you have any concerns or queries or would like to know more about how we handle your private details feel free to phone our office on 96 102 102 so that we can explain our procedures in greater detail.

If undeliverable return to:



DAREBIN INC.

Reg No. A0028861A

PO Box 44, FAIRFIELD VIC 3078

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